

for further prosecution in this application. Accordingly, claims 46 and 47 been provisionally canceled.

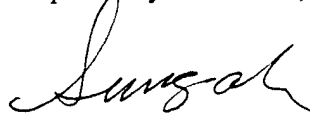
Restriction requirement is appropriate in accordance with the first sentence of 35 U.S.C. § 121, only if the groups of claims are both "independent and distinct." In the present case, the embodiments illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26 are inter-related and not "independent and distinct," and therefore it is respectfully submitted that the restriction was inappropriate. For example, independent apparatus claim 1 and independent method claim 22 are generic claims that cover the embodiment illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement be withdrawn at least for the embodiments illustrated in Figures 22 and 24-26.

IV Conclusion

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (213) 689-5176 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefore.

Respectfully submitted,



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